

13th FOUNDERS' CHALLENGES, 18 October 2009 – Event Report

The 13th edition of the Founders' Challenge saw us breaking some new ground, with a new 16 mile route, and the introduction of lifts to and from Guildford station to assist those who wouldn't otherwise be able to get to Peaslake on a Sunday. As a result, we had a record number of entries and starters. The weather was almost perfect, too, and on a good day I'm sure that there is no finer route in the Surrey Hills.

This event was first held in 1997, when it was called the *Founders Jubilee Challenge*. Tony Youngs devised the 26-mile route linking various places connected to the origins of the LDWA 25 years earlier. The walk was a commemoration of the founding of the LDWA and the role of Alan Blatchford and Chris Steer in this. Tony was an excellent artist and his line drawings decorate the Founders' Challenge certificate.

It's always good to see entrants returning to the Founders Challenge year after year; but we were also very pleased to see so many new faces to the event. There was a good number of entrants for whom this was their first LDWA-style event, and whilst some had a few problems with the navigation here and there (and having gone round in circles on some events, I have every sympathy) everyone seemed to be satisfied with their achievements. Some covered 26ml for the first time; some are making rapid progress to membership of the 100 Marathon Club.

We had a total of 227 entries, of which 200 started and 196 finished.

	2009		2008		2007		2006		2005		2004
	16ml	26ml	26ml		26ml		26ml		26ml		26ml
Entries	55	172	127		127		163		132		124
Starters	53	147	117		114		149		114		116
Finishers	51	145	113		102		139		114		107

Our sincere thanks as usual go to the Hurtwood Control, and the Albury and the Wotton Estates for use of their car parks and paths; and to Tanners Hatch YHA for hosting a checkpoint.

As ever, an event of this type couldn't take place without a considerable amount of time and effort put in by the marshals. Particular thanks this year go to: Nigel Schofield and Norman Corrin from the Beds, Bucks & Northants LDWA Group; and Merv Nutburn from the Kent LDWA Group.

The Founders' Challenge has a well-deserved reputation for the high standard of the refreshments offered both on the checkpoints and back at the Memorial Hall. Kathy LoRaso organized the catering team and food purchasing, assisted by Nigel Schofield and Paula Buckton. The main meal menu was up to the usual high standards, and was prepared from scratch with fresh ingredients in the hall. Judith Griffiths made the bread pudding at CP2. The Founders continues to serve the best food I have ever had on an event, and Kathy was not at all phased by having to cater for so many more than usual.

Don Bolton checked the route description. Don Newman, a Peaslake resident, looked after liaison in the village and setting up the hall, as well as local storage of gear. Fiona Cameron looked after the overall organization of the event, and entries.

We would like to thank all the marshals who did a great job as ever, many multi-tasking:

Car parking and village marshalling: Don Bolton, Peter Charlton, Norman Corrin, Nick Marshall, Don Newman, Merv Nutburn and Douglas Robinson.

Catering: Kathy LoRaso, Paula Buckton, Susan Cannell, Judith Griffiths, Tricia Hewlett, Colin Hillsden, Paul Holden, Merv Nutburn, Douglas Robinson

Entries: Fiona Cameron and Norman Corrin.

Finish: Fiona Cameron and Susan Cannell.

Checkpoint 1: Don Bolton, Peter Charlton, Nick Marshall & Norman Corrin.

Checkpoint 2: Paul Lawrence, Helen Older, Dave Williams and Laurence Foe

Checkpoint 3: Don Bolton, Peter Charlton, Nick Marshall, Norman Corrin, Steve Garnsey, Landy.

Sweep from CP3 to Peaslake: Nick Marshall and Norman Corrin

Checkpoint 4: Don Newman and Colin Hillsden

Checkpoint closing & roving control: Nigel Schofield

Hall set up/clearing up: Don Newman, Fiona Cameron, Don Bolton, Paul Lawrence, Kathy LoRaso and Nigel Schofield.

Station transport: Peter Charlton, Paul Lawrence, Don Newman, Norman Corrin.

Contact details for any queries or comments, are tel: 01483 487705, or f.cameron@tesco.net
Please do let us have your comments, on any aspect of the event. Watch the London website at www.ldwa-london.org or the LDWA's website at www.ldwa.org.uk for news of the event in 2010.

Thanks to all of you for supporting the event!

Fiona Cameron
Event Organiser
25 October 2009